

Message Text

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TO USMISSION NATO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 182904

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, NATO, NL

SUBJECT: NATO SPECIALIZATION STUDY

REF: (A) USNATO 4129; (B) STATE 159069

1. CONCUR WITH USNATO APPROACH, PARA 7, REF A.

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2. CONCERNING UK OBJECTIONS TO US PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR NATO STUDY ON SPECIALIZATION, REF B: (A) WE EXPECT A LOGISTIC SUB-GROUP TO BE FORMED; (B) SPECIALIZATION CANNOT BE RATIONALLY STUDIED WITHOUT A CONSIDERATION OF AREAS OF RELATIVE NATIONAL ADVANTAGE; (C) THE IMMINENCE OF ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS MAKES IT NECESSARY TO RELATE SPECIALIZATION CANDIDATES TO THE CONTENT AND CONSEQUENCES OF THOSE AGREEMENTS; (D) IT IS NOT OUR INTENT TO ENCOMPASS THE WHOLE NATO FORCE PLANNING EXERCISE UNDER THE SPECIALIZATION RUBRIC, BUT TO LEAVE OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE BROADER IMPLICATIONS OF SPECIALIZATION FOR STRUCTURING AND PATTERNING.

3. FYI: WE UNDERSTAND FROM FRG VISITORS NOW IN WASHINGTON THAT FRG OPPOSES LOGISTICS SUB-GROUP ON BASIS THAT EUROLOG HAS LOOKED AT ALL AREAS SUGGESTED IN REF B. IF THAT IS SO, THE EUROLOG STUDY COULD BE TABLED AS A SPECIALIZATION CONTRIBUTION, IF ITS EXISTENCE IS RAISED IN THE LOGISTICS SUBGROUP. IN ANY EVENT THE EUROLOG STUDY SHOULD NOT BE

CONSIDERED A SUBSTITUTE FOR ADDRESSING THE SPECIFIC TOPICS, SUGGESTED IN REF B, IN A GROUP THAT INCLUDES US REPRESENTATION. END FYI.

4. EVEN IF THE LAND AND AIR FORCES SUB-GROUPS FIRST ATTEMPT TO SOLVE DUTCH FORCE PLANNING PROBLEMS, THE DUTCH TERMS OF REFERENCE AS WELL AS OURS DICTATE A MUCH BROADER LOOK AT SPECIALIZATION MATTERS. SPECIFICALLY, WE EXPECT THE EFFORT TO PRODUCE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE GENERAL FEASIBILITY OF SPECIALIZATION AS WELL AS A LIMITED NUMBER OF PROMISING SPECIALIZATION PROPOSALS FOR MINISTERS TO CONSIDER IN DECEMBER FOR FURTHER DETAILED STUDY. THERE MIGHT ALSO BE SOME PROPOSALS WHICH COULD BE IMPLEMENTED IMMEDIATELY AND ENDORSED BY MINISTERS IN DECEMBER. THE MOST FEASIBLE AREA FOR SUCH PROPOSALS IS LOGISTICS, WHICH IS ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR OUR INSISTENCE THAT LOGISTICS BE STUDIED.

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